

### AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A bearing seat of a ball joint provided in a socket with an opening, comprising a spherical sliding surface that rotatably holds an approximately globular ball portion of a ball stud arranged in ~~this~~ the socket and has a latitudinal direction and a longitudinal direction and an opening ~~communicated~~ communicating with the opening in the socket portion, further comprising:

a plurality of housing concave portions that are respectively opened ~~at alternate positions~~ along first and second adjacent longitudinal direction positions on the sliding surface in a manner opposed to an outer circumferential surface of the ball portion ~~and house for housing~~ a lubricant; wherein

the concave portions of the first and second adjacent longitudinal direction positions have opened areas which are different from each other.

Claim 2 (Original): The bearing seat of a ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the housing concave portions are respectively opened on the sliding surface so that mutually adjacent ones are different in latitudinal direction position and longitudinal direction position from each other.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The bearing seat of a ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the housing concave portions form lines along a predetermined direction, and respective opening areas of the mutually adjacent lines along a predetermined direction are different from each other.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The bearing seat of a ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the housing concave portions include:

a plurality of first housing portions that form ~~at least one~~ a first tier along the latitudinal direction north of an equator, having opening areas almost equal to each other; and

a plurality of second housing portions that are respectively provided so as to form other tiers, ~~at one end side and an~~ north of the equator side in the longitudinal direction of the ~~at least one first~~ tier of these the first housing portions, respectively, along the latitudinal direction by ones having opening areas equal to each other and so that opening areas sequentially increase from the tier ~~at the one end side to the tier~~ north of at the equator side in the longitudinal direction.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A bearing seat of a ball joint provided in a socket with an opening, comprising a spherical sliding surface ~~that~~ adapted to rotatably ~~holds~~ hold an

approximately globular ball portion of a ball stud arranged in this socket and an opening ~~communicated~~ communicating with the opening in the socket portion, further comprising:

a plurality of housing concave portions having opened areas that are ~~respectively~~ opened on the sliding surface in a manner opposed to an outer circumferential surface of the ball portion, said concave portions are respectively provided so as to form first and second lines along the longitudinal direction at one side of an equator and form tiers along the latitudinal direction wherein the first line is closer to the equator and the opened ~~by ones having opening~~ areas in the second line are equal to each other and less than the opened areas of the first line so ~~that opening areas sequentially increase from in the tiers at one end side to the tier of an equator side in the longitudinal direction~~, and the opened areas are adapted to house a lubricant.

Claim 6 (Original): The bearing seat of a ball joint as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the housing concave portions are opened respectively in approximately circular forms.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~A ball joint comprising:~~

~~a socket with an opening portion;~~

~~the~~ The bearing seat as set forth in Claim 1 ~~provided in the socket; and~~ wherein,

a ~~the ball stud with a~~ ball portion rotatably held in this ~~the~~ bearing seat and ~~housed in the socket and~~ has a stud portion provided in a protruding condition from this ~~the~~ ball portion and adapted to be inserted through the opening in the socket portion.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The bearing seat of a ball joint as set forth in Claim 5, wherein

the housing concave portions are opened respectively in approximately circular forms.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A ball joint comprising:~~

~~a socket with an opening portion;~~

~~the~~ The bearing seat as set forth in Claim 5 ~~provided in the socket; and wherein,~~

~~a ball stud with a~~ the ball portion rotatably held in this bearing seat and ~~housed in the socket and~~ has a stud portion provided in a protruding condition from this ~~the~~ ball portion and adapted to be inserted through the opening portion.